

# THE SENTINALS

## BIG SURF! SURFER GIRL



Collector's Choice  
**MUSIC**

# BIG SURF!

1. BIG SURF
2. EXOTIC
3. LATINIA
4. TOUGH SOUL
5. REVELLION
6. PISMO BEACH
7. SHOUT
8. TOR-CHULA
9. SUNSET BEACH
10. SURFIN'
11. INTOXICO
12. LATIN SOUL
13. HIDEAWAY
14. SURFIN' TRAGEDY

Executive Producer: **Gordon Anderson**

Liner Notes: **Bryan Thomas**

Album Art Provided by **Rob Santos**

Mastered by **Bob Fisher**

*Thanks to Mark Pinkus, Dave Kapp and Mason Williams*



# SURFER GIRL

15. SURF 'N SOUL
16. GREMMIE'S WALK
17. THE SENTINAL
18. FREE AND EASY
20. SURFER GIRL
21. THE PIPE
22. SURF STOMPER
23. BLUE BOOZE
24. OOH POH PA DOO
25. NITE SHUFFLE
26. SENSATION
27. TWILIGHTER

*Collectors' Choice*  
**MUSIC**

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DELPHONIC  
DFST 1241 **STEREO**

12 SWINGIN' TUNES FOR THE TUFFEST OF BUNNIES



# SURFER GIRL

## THE SENTINALS



# SURFER GIRL • THE SENTINALS

MONOPHONIC DF1P 1241  
STEREOPHONIC DFST 1241 **DEL-FI RECORDS**

**SURFIES!!!** Lay the needle in the grooves...pick up your heels and hold on tight. You're about to shake, shout and soul with America's No. 1 show band "The Sentinals." Winners of the West Coast Battle of The Surfing Bands at Pismo Beach, California, for four consecutive years, Johnny, Tommy, Bobby, Harry and Kenny make our surf bunnies romp, riot and rampage at the "Rendezvous" in Balboa; go stark raving in Bakersfield, and fall out all over Southern California.

This album has been recorded by popular demand, created by the tremendous success of their first album **BIG SURF**, Del-Fi #1232. The Sentinal "sound" is here...whether you are a dry land surfer or the real thing, the Sentinal sound is what's happening.

Side One	Writer	Publisher
SURF 'N SOUL	A. Garcia	Anthony Music Corp.
GREMMIES WALK	H. Sacknider	Prestige Publ. Co.
THE SENTINAL	B. Holmquist-T. Lee	Anthony Music Corp.
FREE AND EASY	K. Hinkle	Anthony Music Corp.
SURFER GIRL	B. Wilson	Guild Music - Sea of Tunes
THE PIPE	H. Hinkle-J. Barabta-B. Holmquist	Anthony Music Corp.

Side Two	Writer	Publisher
SURF STOMPER	T. Nunes-K. Hinkle-The Sentinals	Anthony Music Corp.
BLUE BOOZE	T. Lee	Contrast Music
OOH POH PA DOO		
NITE SHUFFLE	K. Hinkle	Prestige Publ. Co.
SENSATION	F. King	
TWILIGHTER	K. Hinkle-T. Lee-D. Morgan	Anthony Music Corp.

Cover: Jim Greenspoon and Michael Lloyd (of "Dimensions" surf band from Beverly Hills, California) talk it up with three surfer girls on the beach in Hawaii (Watch for The Dimensions new album on Del-Fi).

Sentinal Fan Club  
Box 942  
Morro Bay, Calif.

### THE ORIGINATORS OF SURFING MUSIC



MANLY TWENTY - Dave Myers & The Sentinals  
DELFI 1230 DELFI 1230



THE LIVLY ONES  
SURF DRUMS  
DELFI 1231 DELFI 1231



BIG SURF - The Sentinals  
DELFI 1232 DELFI 1232



SURF RIDERS - The Livly Ones  
DELFI 1233 DELFI 1233



WIPE OUT! - The Impact  
DELFI 1234 DELFI 1234



THE ORIGINAL SURFER STOMP  
DELFI 1235 DELFI 1235



SURF CITY - The Livly Ones  
DELFI 1236 DELFI 1236



THE GREAT SURF HITS - The Livly Ones  
DELFI 1237 DELFI 1237



SURFERS' PANAMA PARTY  
Beach Bunnies Surfing Band  
DELFI 1238 DELFI 1238

In 1961, two friends from San Luis Obispo high school—lead guitarist Tommy Nunes and bass player Gary Winburne—formed their very first group, with Mike Scott (drums), Peter Graham (rhythm guitar) and Bobby Holmquist (sax).

Scott was soon replaced (after their very first gig, arranged by Holmquist's brother), when Nunes convinced a rival band's better drummer, Johnny Barbata, to join his group instead.

Soon, Nunes' band—the Sentinals (their own spelling, though often spelled "Sentinels" too)—were pummeling the local competition at "Battle of the Bands" contests in the Central Coast area (San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach and Santa Maria, about 225 miles north of Los Angeles), winning the West Coast Battle of The Surfing Bands at Pismo Beach for four consecutive years.

In March 1962, at the Arroyo Grande Battle of the Bands, Nunes met future cult-rocker Merrell Fankhauser, whose own surf band, the Impacts, would take the number one spot that evening. Their friendly cross-town rivalry would continue for years, neither knowing at the time that in just a year, the Sentinals and the Impacts would end up as labelmates recording for a label down in Hollywood.

It was also at one of these band battles that the Sentinals caught the eye of Norman Knowles, a sax-playing veteran of several local groups, including the Revels. Knowles had also co-written at least one classic surf instrumental, 1960's "Church Key," already in the repertoire of nearly every surf band in California.

"We were playing many dances and proms here in our home town of San Luis Obispo," Nunes told writer Elliot Kendall in 1995, for the liner notes to the initial *Big Surf* CD reissue, "and had built up quite an impressive following when Norman saw us and asked to manage us."

Knowles signed the band—still in high school!—to his booking agency, West Coast Entertainment Bureau, and began producing their recording sessions for his own Westco label.

One of the Sentinals very first recordings, "Latínia," would also be one of their best, an instant classic that mixed surf guitar with Latin influences. This tune—based on Santo & Johnny's "Slave Girl," which had been influenced by Ernesto Lecuona's classic Cuban folk melody, "Malgueña"—was written by

Nunes and Tony Hilder, a surf music concert promoter and production company hustler (Hilder sometimes used the name Mark Hilder).

Despite being miles from the nearest shoreline, a lot of the landlocked surf combos—from the San Joaquin Valley to the Central Coast area—were starting to incorporate percussive R&B, pachuco soul and Latin rhythms in their instrumentals. One reason for this can possibly be traced back to the influence of Top 40 radio stations like KAFY 550 AM, in Bakersfield—and several Central Valley stations (KSTN 1420, KJOY 1280, and Fresno's KMAK 1380—who were mixing surf music with a lot of R&B and Latin tunes.

"Latínia" was issued numerous times, including initial releases on both Knowles' Westco (WCEB 1/2) and Hilder's Impact (Impact 23), in May 1962. The single was also issued on Herb Newman and Lew Bidell's Era label (Era 3082) the following month (Era also issued the Sentinals' "Latin Soul"/"Christmas Eve": Era 3097, 1962).

While Knowles continued producing their recordings, Tony Hilder shopped the band's masters to local record labels that summer, cutting a licensing deal with Bob Keane, a former big band performer who was now operating his own label, Del-Fi Records, out of a second floor office building located at 8277 Selma Ave, near Hollywood's "Record Row."

Keane had assembled a roster of surf bands by the summer of '63—the Lively Ones, Dave Myers & the Surftones, the Centurions, the Impacts and a few others—and was busy releasing what were commonly called "rack jobs," distributed via "rack-jobbers" to stores who were mostly looking to keep their record racks full of budget-priced albums.

Knowles, meanwhile, dropped off a 45 of "Latínia" to nearby L.A. radio station KFWB, and once popular deejays Wink Martindale and Gene Weed learned Del-Fi was planning future releases by this Central Coast band, they made "Latínia" their "Pick to Click."

The Sentinals' first and only single for Del-Fi, the pummeling "Big Surf"/"Sunset Beach" (Del-Fi 4917), was released in July 1963, followed shortly by an album of the same name, *Big Surf* (DFLP/DFST 1232), which included not only terrific surf tunes, but a fine assortment of frat rock-R&B ("Rebellion," "Pismo Beach") and pachuco soul ("Tor-Chula" – inspired by "Tequila," written by the Champs' Daniel Flores a.k.a. "Chuck Rio").

They also recorded a couple of top notch covers, including a cover of Freddie King's "Hideaway" (its inclusion on the *Freddie King Goes Surfin'* LP, a repackaging of King's classic intros, is frequently cited as a seminal influence by 'sixties surf guitarists), and an instrumental version of "Surfin'," the Beach Boys' first Top 40 hit.

"After we had recorded the *Big Surf* album," Nunes continued, "we started playing live shows in Los Angeles and Bakersfield, and places like the Rendezvous Ballroom, which was in Balboa Beach."

The Rendezvous—a massive two-story barnlike structure, built in 1928, and located between Washington and Palm streets on the Balboa Peninsula—was surf music's ground zero, with a dance floor covering 12,000 square feet, enough room for 1,500 "surf stomping" couples.

"The Rendezvous Ballroom was a very big venue," recalled Nunes, "and it had a balcony that curved around the entire upper floor. While we would play certain songs, the dancers would do the 'Surfer Stomp' and the entire balcony and the lower floor would bend in time to the jump of the dancers! It would get really crazy."

The Sentinals made frequent trips to the L.A. area, opening for top artists of the day, including Jan & Dean, Bobby Vee, Bobby Vinton, the Coasters, the Olympics and the Rivingtons.

"This was during the peak of surf music," Nunes continued, "and we were always working. KRLA disc jockey Reb Foster used to book us for many shows at the Revelaire club in Redondo Beach, sometimes as the Sentinal Six."

It may have been a busy time for the band, but the constant traveling quickly wore them out and soon there were more personnel changes. Graham decided to move on, and was replaced by bassist Harry Sackrider, then Sentinals co-founder Winburne left, and he was replaced by Ben Trout before the band's vocalist, Kenny Hinkle (aka Kenny Hill and Kenny Karter), ultimately took over the bass duties (John Ryan also played bass with the band during this time).

The Sentinals' second album for Del-Fi, *Surfer Girl* (DFLP/DFST 1241), appeared just a few months later, in the summer of '63. The LP featured several new originals (including "The Sentinal," inspired by the Royaltones' "Flamingo Express," and "Nite Shuffle," inspired by the 1962 recording "Night

Theme," by the San Jose-based Preps), not to mention a few covers (including "Sensation"—a.k.a. "Sen-Say-Shun"—by Freddie King).

This album's cover photo (which features the sub-heading "12 Swinging Tunes For The Tuffest Of Bunnies") features a couple of surfer dudes hanging out with a trio of surf bunnies beside a beached catamaran.

The surfer dudes were actually Michael Lloyd (later of the West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band, and producer of many great 'sixties albums, including those by the Smoke and October Country) and Jimmy Greenspoon (later of Three Dog Night). Even though the back of the album claimed a forthcoming album from the Dimensions (a.k.a. the Surf Boys), it never happened.

One of the other fascinating bits of trivia about this album is that the title tune is actually "Surfer Girl" by the Lively Ones, which Keane had substituted at the last minute without telling the band. As you might expect, this didn't sit very well with the Sentinals, who were ready to move on anyway.

Nunes and his Sentinals returned to Knowles' Westco label for a few singles, and eventually recording a live album, *Vegas Go Go*, for the Sutton budget label in 1964 (Sutton 338).

Band members came and went, too—one lineup featured guitarist/vocalist Mike Olsen, who later recorded solo as Lee Michaels, whose "Do You Know What I Mean" hit #6 on the Billboard charts in September 1971—before Nunes disbanded the Sentinals in 1966. Hinkle later formed California Music, with Terry Melcher and Del-Fi alum Bruce Johnston, while Johnny Barbata ended up playing with the Turtles in 1967, as well as recording and touring stints with the Everly Brothers, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Neil Young, John Sebastian and Jefferson Airplane, to name just a few.

Del-Fi originally reissued CDs of the Sentinals two LPs—*Big Surf* (DFCD 71232) and *Surfer Girl* (DFCD 71241)—in 1995, and in 1999, compiled both albums as *Sunset Beach: The Best of the Sentinals*, which included an additional bonus cut, "Vesuvius," from a 1963 Del-Fi compilation LP, *KFWB: Battle Of The Surfing Bands* (DFLP/DFST 1235/DFCD 71235, 1994).

Bryan Thomas

(Special thanks to Elliot Kendall for his assistance.)

# BIG SURF! THE SENTINALS

DEL-FI RECORDS



A ROB KEENE PRODUCTION

DFLP 1232

STEREOPHONIC DFST 1232  
MONOPHONIC DFLP 1232  
DEL-FI RECORDS

## BIG SURF THE SENTINALS



side one

BIG SURF  
EXOTIC  
LATINIA  
TOUGH SOUL  
REVELLION  
PISMO BEACH  
SHOUT

side two

TOR-CHULA  
SUNSET BEACH  
SURFIN'  
INTOXICO  
LATIN SOUL  
HIDEAWAY  
SURFIN' TRAGEDY

Although the Sentinals have been together for a little less than two years as a working band they have already established themselves as the top box office attraction for surfers at Balboa as well as Pismo Beach, and throughout the Bakersfield area. Young, good looking boys, all 18 years of age, they call San Luis Obispo, California, home!

The group has toured nationally with the Buddy Deane Show and has proved an overwhelming sensation throughout the entire country. One of their many laurels include winning the West Coast Championship of the *Battle of the Bands* three times in a row over top competition from all over Southern California. Not only do they play great music, but they have been acclaimed a great stage attraction in terms of their performances. 'Big Surf' is truly strong evidence as to the exciting sounds and talents of The Sentinals. A must for everyone's collection.

OTHER  
BOSS  
SURFER  
ALBUMS  
ON  
DEL-FI  
RECORDS



WIPE OUT - THE IMPACTS - WUP! OUT; REVELLION; FORT LAUDERDALE; BEARS; BLUE SURF; STEEL PIER; IMPACT; TANDEN; SEA HORSE; BEEP BEEP; CHURCH KEY; LISA  
DFLP 1234, DFST 1234



SURF RIDER - THE LIVELY ONES - SURF BEAT; LETS GO TRIPPIN'; MESSING; CUSTAR MEN; CATTAPILLAR CRAWL; WALKING THE BOARD; PARADISE COVE; GOODY FOOT; SURF RIDER; HAPPY GRAMME; MOTHOGSEN; SURFER'S LAMENT  
DFST 1228, DFLP 1228



SURFIN' PAJAMA PARTY - BRUCE JOHNSTON - BAM-BAM; SURFER STOMP; LAST NIGHT; WHAT'S I SAY; SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND; SURFER'S DELIGHT; SAN-SAN CITY; GEE BUT I'M LONELY; BASHIN' THE POP EYE; GREEN ONIONS  
DFLP 1228, DFST 1228

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# BIG SURF!

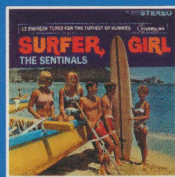
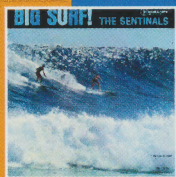
1. **BIG SURF** (*T. Nunes*)
2. **EXOTIC** (*B. Morgan*)
3. **LATINIA** (*T. Nunes*)
4. **TOUGH SOUL** (*N. Knowles*)
5. **REVELLION** (*T. Nunes*)
6. **PISMO BEACH** (*T. Nunes*)
7. **SHOUT** (*O. Isley/R. Isley/R. Isley*)
8. **TOR-CHULA** (*T. Nunes*)
9. **SUNSET BEACH** (*T. Nunes*)
10. **SURFIN'** (*M. Love/B. Wilson*)
11. **INTOXICO** (*D. Darnold/N. Knowles*)
12. **LATIN SOUL**  
(*L. Schiffrin/J. D'Andrea*)
13. **HIDEAWAY** (*F. King*)
14. **SURFIN' TRAGEDY**  
(*T. Hilder/R. Hafner*)

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15. **SURF 'N SOUL** (*A. Garcia*)
16. **GREMMIE'S WALK** (*H. Sackrider*)
17. **THE SENTINAL** (*B. Holmquist/T. Lee*)
18. **FREE AND EASY** (*K. Hinkle*)
20. **SURFER GIRL** (*B. Wilson*)
21. **THE PIPE**  
(*K. Hinkle/J. Barbata/B. Holmquist*)
22. **SURF STOMPER**  
(*T. Nunes/K. Hinkle/The Sentinals*)
23. **BLUE BOOZE** (*T. Lee*)
24. **OOH POH PA DOO** (*J. Hill*)
25. **NITE SHUFFLE** (*K. Hinkle*)
26. **SENSATION** (*F. King*)
27. **TWILIGHTER**  
(*K. Hinkle/T. Lee/D. Morgan*)



CCM-471-2

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**THE SENTINALS**  
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